



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Administration
DIVISION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
BUILDING CODE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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BLANKET VARIANCE BV-27

EFFECTIVE: August 11, 2011

PURPOSE: Clarification of terms and procedures relative to Tents,
Membrane Structures, and Temporary Structures

AMMEND: Chapter 31
Article 3102.1 Membrane Structures General Article 3102.2
Definitions

Delete section 3102.1 and substitute the following

3102.1 General.

The provisions of this section shall apply to air-supported, air-inflated, membrane-covered cable and membrane-covered frame structures, collectively known as membrane structures, erected for a period of 180 days or longer. Those erected for a shorter period of time shall comply with the Rhode Island Uniform Fire Code. Those erected for 180 Days or longer are also regulated by existing code section 3103 Temporary Structures; a Rhode Island amendment to the International model code.

Membrane structures covering water storage facilities, water clarifiers, water treatment plants, sewage treatment plants, greenhouses and similar facilities not used for human occupancy are required to meet only the requirements of Sections 3102.3.1 and 3102.7. Membrane structures erected on a building, balcony, deck or other structure for any period of time shall comply with this section.

Delete 3102.2 Definitions of Membrane – Covered Cable Structure and Membrane - Covered Frame Structure and substitute the following

3102.2 Definitions.

MEMBRANE-COVERED CABLE STRUCTURE.

A non-pressurized structure in which a mast and cable system provides support and tension to the membrane weather barrier and the membrane imparts stability to the structure. Including but not limited to "TENTS".

MEMBRANE-COVERED FRAME STRUCTURE.

A non-pressurized building wherein the structure is composed of a rigid framework to support a tensioned membrane which provides the weather barrier. Including but not limited to "TENTS".

This BLANKET VARIANCE expires upon the effective date of the next edition of this code. Contact the Office of the State Building Code Commission for further details.

John P. Leyden CBO
State of RI Building Commissioner